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AUTHOR Rodgers, Kay, Comp.
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ABSTRACT

This guide to materials on microcomputers that are available in the Library of Congress is designed to assist individuals in the process of determining the need for a microcomputer, selecting the most appropriate one, understanding its use, and developing the ability to exploit its full potential. Buying guides, evaluations, and books on individual systems are listed to assist persons considering the purchase of a microcomputer with information on what these machines can do and the software that is available. References to books on maintenance and repair are also included. A brief explanation of the scope of the topic introduces the references, which are listed in the following categories: (1) introductions to the microcomputer (2) subject headings; (3) selected buying guides; (4) basic texts; (5) additional texts; (6) related texts; (7) handbooks, manuals, encyclopedias, and dictionaries; (8) catalogs; (9) maintenance and repair; (10) bibliographies; (11) state-of-the-art reviews and conference proceedings; (12) government publications; (13) abstracting and indexing services; (14) online databases; (15) journals; (16) representative journal articles; (17) indexes to reports; (18) selected technical reports; (19) selected vertical file materials; and (2) associations that can provide additional information. (CGD)

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MICROCOMPUTERS
Compiled by Kay Rodgers

TB 87-9

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SCOPE: Microcomputers, often referred to as personal computers (PCs), are small, stand-alone computers whose basic characteristics include moderate cost, immediate use right out of the carton, expansion and enhancement capabilities, and the availability of third-party software. As they evolve, they become capable of doing more and more of what larger computers can do. Microcomputers are used in both home and office by one person only or by a small group to perform such activities as word processing, data management and analysis, graphics, planning, and communication with peripherals and other computers.

Microcomputers are not essential for everyone. Many have been purchased only to sit idle after their owners find that they have too little use for them. The aim of this guide is to assist in the process of determining the need for a microcomputer, selecting the most appropriate one, understanding its use, and developing the ability to exploit its full potential. Buying guides, evaluations, and books on individual systems are listed in an attempt to provide those considering the purchase of a microcomputer with information on what these machines can do and what software is available. References to books on maintenance and repair are also included. Not meant to be a comprehensive bibliography, this Tracer Bullet, an update of TB 81-12, is designed--as the name of the series implies--to put the reader "on target."

INTRODUCTION

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*Available in reference collection, Science Reading Room

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SUBJECT HEADINGS used by the Library of Congress, under which books on microcomputers can be located in most card, book, and online catalogs, include the following:

MICROCOMPUTERS (Highly relevant)
MINICOMPUTERS (Highly relevant)
PORTABLE COMPUTERS (Highly relevant)
See also under the names of individual computers, e.g., Apple IIe, IBM Personal Computer, Macintosh. It is usually best to use the browse command when trying to locate information about a particular computer using the online system.
COMPUTER SOFTWARE (Related)
MICROPROCESSORS (Related)
COMPUTERS (More general)
ELECTRONIC DIGITAL COMPUTERS (More general)

SELECTED BUYING GUIDES (Subdivision PURCHASING can be used to identify other titles, e.g., MICROCOMPUTERS--PURCHASING, MINICOMPUTERS--PURCHASING)

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ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING SERVICES that index relevant journal articles and literature are listed below. Some suggested terms are given as aids in searching.

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See: Computers, Portable
Microcomputers
Personal Computers
Telephone--Computer Combination

Business Periodicals Index (1958-) Z7164.C81B983
See: Microcomputers
Portable Computers
For specific applications see subheading Data Processing under various subjects.
See also under names of individual products.

Computer Abstracts (1957-) Z6654.C17C64*
See: Microcomputers
Personal Computing
See also under names of individual products.

Computer & Control Abstracts (1969-) QA76.C548*
See: Hobby Computing
Home Computing
Microcomputers
Personal Computing
For applications see Microcomputer Applications and under relevant application heading.

Computer Literature Index (1980-) QA76.Q3*
See: Microcomputers
Minicomputers
Personal Computing
Videotex

Note: Consult reference librarian for location of abstracting and indexing services in the Science Reading Room.

Magazine Index (1983-) Available on film/ROM reader
See: Laptop Computers
Microcomputers
Minicomputers
Portable Computers
See also under names of individual products.

Microcomputer Index (1980-) QA75.5.M5*
This publication has an author index, company name index, product name index, and an index to microcomputers.

Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature (1900-) AI3.R45
See under headings beginning COMPUTERS.

ONLINE DATABASES available through commercial electronic database vendors include:

Business Software Database (Data Courier, Inc.)

The Computer Database--The Database for Computing, Electronics, and Telecommunications (Management Contents)

The International Software Database (International Software Database Corp.)

Magazine Index (Information Access Company, IAC)

Microcomputer Index (Database Services)

Microcomputers (GML Corp.)

JOURNALS that often contain articles relevant to microcomputers are

Byte QA76.5.B9
Communications of the ACM QA76.A772
Compute QA75.5.C587
Computerworld QA76.C5816
Datamation T175.M26
Infoworld uncataloged
PC QA76.8.I1015P38
Personal Computing QA76.5.P3937
Software Reviews on File QA76.75.S64

REPRESENTATIVE JOURNAL ARTICLES

Abrahams, P. Personal computers and computing professionals. Communications of the ACM, v. 30, Feb. 1987: 101-102. QA76.A772

Chertok, Barbara Lee. R&D: IBM's trump card. PC world, v. 5, Aug. 1987: 182-184. QA76.8.I2594P3

Datamation. Thirtieth anniversay issue. New York, Cahners Pub. Co., 1987. 192 p. (Datamation, v. 33, Sept. 15, 1987) T175.M26
Reports statistics on industry growth and changes as well as trends for the future.

Divoky, Diane. Image copyright: are you breaking the law? Making it easy to copy someone else's artwork or photograph doesn't make it right. Publish!, v. 2, Aug. 1987: 51-55. uncataloged

Epstein, H. I. Continuing education--a look to the future. Journal of professional issues in engineering, v. 113, Jan. 1987: 2-9. TA1.A52322

Freedman, Beth, and Jim Forbes. Increasingly, corporate users acquire a taste for Macintosh: applications and connectivity make Mac a safer choice but some users say it's not all-around competitor to PC. PC week, v. 4, Aug. 18, 1987: 1, 6. QA75.5.P37

LePage, Rick. The road to MS-DOS: exploring the paths to connectivity. Macworld, v. 4, Aug. 1987: 108-113. uncataloged

Miller, Stephan. Black Enterprise guide to home entertainment. Black enterprise, v. 18, Sept. 1987: 81-88. E185.8.B5

Pepper, Jon. Is this the year of the lap-top computer? PC week, v. 4, June 9, 1987: 99. QA75.5.P37

Murphy, Brian J. Long live the home market (whatever it is). High-tech marketing, v. 4, June 1987: 20-26. uncataloged

Reich, Caroline. Rules may change in software selection. Purchasing world, v. 31, Aug. 1987: 74-75. HF5437.A2P83

Sharpe, Richard. Why portability cannot compete. Management today, Mar. 1987: 100. HD70.G7M32

Vitalari, Nicholas P., and Alladi Venkatesh. In-home computing and information services: a twenty-year analysis of the technology and its impacts. Telecommunications policy, v. 11, Mar. 1987: 65-81. HE7601.T44

Waldrop, Heidi. Planners and their computers: love at first byte? Successful meetings, v. 36, Aug. 1987: 42-45. HF5438.A317

Wallace, John. Office in a box. Working woman, v. 12, Apr. 1987: 60. HQ1101.W78

Williamson, Mickey. Will AI fit onto a PC? Computerworld, v. 21, Aug. 17, 1987: 55-57. QA76.C5816

Wright, Richard B. How one executive makes the most of his PC. Industrial distribution, v. 76, May 1987: 169-174. TJ1.M65

Yaramko, James. Augmenting the power of personal computers. Office, v. 106, Aug. 1987: 38-41. HF5001.02

REPORTS and other types of literature are indexed in the following guides:

Government Reports Announcements & Index (1946-) Z7916.G78*

Scientific & Technical Aerospace Reports (1963-) TL500.S35*

SELECTED TECHNICAL REPORTS

The Application of microcomputers to aerospace and defence scientific and technical information work. (AGARD lecture series, no. 149) Neuilly sur Seine, France, Advisory Group for Aerospace Research & Development, Oct. 1986. 124 p. AD-A173 314**

Ellington, Edward P., and Holly J. Grell. Development of a national microcomputer network for productivity organizations. Atlanta, Georgia Productivity Center, Georgia Institute of Technology, Jan. 1987. 196 p. PB87-157 368**

Highfill, Keith G. A decision model for selection of microcomputers and operating systems. Monterey, Calif., Naval Postgraduate School, June 1984. 75 p. AD-A149 065**

Mauersberger, Gary S. The design and hardware evaluation of an advanced 16-bit, low-power, high performance microcomputer system for digital signal processing. Manhattan, Kan., Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Kansas State University, 1985. 108 p. Master's thesis. AD-A158 130**

Schiller, Mark W. TOTAL-EASE: a personal computer based expert system for control system engineering. Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, Air Force Institute of Technology, Dec. 1986. 280 p. AD-A177 751**

Schinelli, Bruce G. A decision support system for space technology tradeoffs: a microcomputer application. Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, Air Force Institute of Technology, Dec. 1985. 170 p. AD-A172 379**

Whitacre, C. Glenvil, and others. Personal computer program for chemical hazard prediction (D2PC). Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., Chemical Research, Development & Engineering Center, Jan. 1987. 151 p. AD-A177 622**

SELECTED MATERIALS available in the Science Reading Room pamphlet boxes include:

All about microcomputer expansion cards. Datapro reports on microcomputers, v. 1, Sept. 1987: CM17-005-101--CM17-005-145.
Includes a list of vendors, organized information, and specifications for video display adapters, accelerator cards, memory cards, port cards, controller cards, and multifunction cards.
For latest update, see Datapro notebook in Science Reading Room.

**Available in the microform collection, Science Reading Room.

All about microcomputers. Datapro directory of microcomputer hardware, v. 1, Dec. 1986: SC20-600-101--SC20-600-144.
Includes a list of microcomputer vendors, organized information, and specifications for microcomputer models.
For latest update, see Datapro notebook in Science Reading Room.

Ditlea, Steve. Souping up your PC. Science digest, v. 94, June 1986: 66-67, 69.

Healey, Martin. What is a workstation? Datamation, v. 33, Jan. 15, 1987: 55-57.

Jansson, Lars. Print quality: the factors influencing print quality and ways to measure it. Byte, v. 12, Sept. 1987: 199-200, 202, 204-205, 207.

Parker, Rachael. Makers try to keep hardware out of gray market. Infoworld, v. 9, July 27, 1987: 33.

Reed, Sandra R., and Patrick Honan. Hard questions and not-so-easy answers. Personal computing, v. 11, Mar. 1987: 62-65, 67-68, 71, 73-75.

Rogers, Michael. The PC printing press. Newsweek, v. 108, July 14, 1986: 50-51.

User ratings of personal computers. Datapro reports on microcomputers, v. 1, Jan. 1986: CM09-002-101--CM09-002-128.
For latest update, see Datapro notebook in Science Reading Room.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Association for Computing Machinery, Inc.
11 West 42nd Street
New York, New York 10036
Telephone: (212) 869-7440

Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology
U.S. National Bureau of Standards
Building 225, Room B154
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899
Telephone: (301) 921-3151

International Communications Industries Association
3150 Spring Street
Fairfax, Virginia 22031
Telephone: (703) 273-7200

See Encyclopedia of Associations, v. 1, pt. 3 (in Science Reading Room) under Computer Users for identification and location of users groups.